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Message Text

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41
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

STR-08 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 DRC-01 SCA-01 VO-03 SCS-03 /198 W
---------- 007357
P R 041047Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1926
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0812

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CGEN EGEN SO US

SUBJ: EXPULSION OF CONOCO MANAGER

REF: STATE 116287

1. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH GSDR BELATEDLY RECOGNIZING SERIOUSSNESS OF RAMSDELL EXPULSION. IT IS TAKING PAINS TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO US THAT EXPULSION DIRECTED SOLELY AT RAMSDELL PERSONALLY AND DOES NOT AFFECT SOMALI DESIRE SEE CONOCO CONTINUE OPERATING HERE OR OTHER FORMS OF U.S.-SOMALI ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

2. AS MENTIONED MOGADISCIO 790, WE DELIVERED NOTE ON JUNE 3 WHICH PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY AND REQUESTED REVERSAL OF SOMALI EXPULSION OF RAMSDELL. NOTE WENT ON TO STATE "THAT SUCH ACTION CANNOT BUT AFFECT THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AMERICAN COMPANIES IN OPERATING AND INVESTING IN SOMALIA.", AND SAID EMBASSY DEPLORED FAILURE OF MOFA TO ACCEDE TO AMBASSADOR'S REPEATED REQUESTS TO DISCUSS SUCH A SERIOUS
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MATTER. ON MORNING JUNE 4, DCM CALLED IN BY MOFA DIRECTOR OF

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EURO-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, HASSAN KAID. LATTER SAID THAT GSDR COULD NOT ACCEPT NOTE IN QUESTION AND WAS RETURNING IT. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO ANSWER POINTS MADE IN THE NOTE. HE SAID ACTION AGAINST RAMSDELL HAD BEEN TAKEN FOR SECURITY REASONS, THAT GSDR HAD NO OBLIGATION REVEAL THESE REASONS, AND EMBASSY HAD NO RIGHT TO PROTEST THEM. SECURITY OF SOMALI STATE COULD NOT BE COMPROMISED. THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF REVERSING DECISION. HOWEVER, HE WISHED EMPHASIZE THAT ACTION WAS TAKEN SOLELY AGAINST RAMSDELL PERSONALLY, NOT AGAINST CONOCO AS A COMPANY OR BECAUSE IT WAS AMERICAN. HE NOTED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS WERE STILL IN SOMALIA.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT HE FELT THAT NOTE WAS APPROPRIATE TO SITUATION AND THAT HE WAS DELIVERING ANOTHER NOTE REQUESTING APPOINTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR WITH FONSEC OR DIRECTOR GENERAL IN ORDER TO MAKE SIMILAR POINTS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. DCM WENT ON TO STATE THAT USG IN NO WAY QUESTIONED SOMALI SOVEREIGNTY OR ITS RIGHT TO EXPEL OFFICIAL OR NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS. HOWEVER, GSDR SHOULD RECOGNIZE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH PRE-EMPTORY AND SEEMINGLY UNWARRANTED ACTS. TORCHIA EXPLUSION (MOG 797) SEEMED YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE (HASSAN KAID HAD NOT HEARD OF TORCHIA CASE). DCM DEPLORED FAILURE OF MOFA TO DISCUSS THESE AND SIMILAR PROBLEMS WITH EMBASSY BEFORE QUESTION REACHED STAGE OF EXPULSION. EMBASSY WAS IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS, BUT COULD DO LITTLE IF FOREIGN OFFICE WAS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS. HASSAN KAID SAID HE RECOGNIZED EMBASSY'S POSITION AND REGRETTED THAT PRESENT PERIOD OF OAU CONFERENCES MADE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR MOFA TO COORDINATE WITH OR EVEN CONTACT OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PARTICULARLY NSS.

4. WHILE DCM WAS AT MOFA, REGIONAL YOUTH OFFICER WHITFIELD MET WITH SECRETARY OF LABOR AND SPORTS HERSI. LATTER SAID THAT GSDR WANTED CONOCO TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN SOMALIA AND CONCURRED WITH WHITFIELD'S STATEMENT THAT COMPANY HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL IN POSITIVE COMMUNITY RELATIONS. (IT HAS.)

5. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH OSTER, ACTING CONOCO MANAGER, LATER IN MORNING JUNE 4. OSTER ENCOURAGED BY OUR REPORTS OF GSDR ATTITUDE. OSTER THEN MET WITH DG OF LABOR WHO ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPTED OSTER'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE LABOR DISPUTE. CONFIDENTIAL

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DG SAID HE CERTAIN NSS WOULD CONCUR IN PROPOSAL.

6. MOFA DIRECTOR GENERAL ABDURAHMAN TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR LATE IN MORNING. HE SAID HE HAD GOOD NEWS TO CONVEY - REVERSAL OF TORCHIA EXPULSION (MOGADISCIO 0807). AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS GLAD TO RECEIVE THIS NEWS, AS DUAL EXPULSION OF TORCHIA AND RAMSDELL HAD RAISED QUESTION IN EMBASSY'S AND WASHINGTON'S MIND AS TO GSDR ATTITUDE TOWARD US BUSINESS PRESENCE IN SOMALIA

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AND INDEED US-SOMALI RELATIONS GENERALLY. ABDURAHMAN SAID RAMS-
DELL EXPULSION WAS ACTION DIRECTED AT HIM AS AN INDIVIDUAL.
IT DID NOT RPT NOT SIGNIFY ANY CHANGE IN SOMALIA'S POSITIVE
ATTITUDE TOWARD US OR, INDEED, TOWARD CONOCO.

7. WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO REACH AMBASSADOR ADDOU. HE WAS
UNABLE MEET WITH AMBASSADOR AS HE SAID HE HAD TO ACCOMPANY FON-
SEC IN CONNECTION WITH OAU ACTIVITIES. AMBASSADOR RAISED BOTH
TORCHIA AND RAMSDELL EXPULSIONS WITH ADDOU ALONG LINES PARA
2 AND 3 ABOVE. HE ASKED ADDOU TO CONVEY TO FONSEC SUBSTANCE
OF AMBASSADOR'S AND WASHINGTON'S CONCERNS AND TO STATE THAT,
WHILE WE WERE GRATIFIED AT TORCHIA EXPULSION REVERSAL AND
CLARIFICATION OF GSDR ATTITUDE TOWARD CONOCO AND US, WE STILL
PROTESTED THESE ACTIONS BY GSDR. ADDOU CLAIMED IGNORANCE OF
CONOCO MATTER BUT SAID HE WOULD INFORM FONSEC AS EMBASSY RE-
QUESTED.

8. BELIEVE ORAL CONTACT WITH ABDURAHMAN, ORAL MESSAGE TO FONSEC
THROUGH ADDOU AND REINFORCED BY OUR NOTE TO MOFA AND MEETING
WITH HASSAN KAID CONSTITUTE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF USG CONCERN
-- FACE-TO-FACE MEETING PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE,
WITH FONMINS STARTING TO ARRIVE FOR OAU. WILL TOUCH ON MATTER
WITH MOHAMED ADEN DURING SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH HIM MORNING
JUNE 5.

9. WE THINK THAT SOMALIS NOW RECOGNIZE THAT RAMSDELL EXPULSION
WAS BADLY HANDLED AND THAT IT WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN THEY
ORIGINALLY BELIEVED. WE THINK THEY WILL ALLOW CONOCO OPERATION
TO CONTINUE AND WILL PROBABLY EXPEL FEW, IF ANY, OTHER CONOCO
EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL. WE DOUBT THAT SOMALIS WILL GO SO FAR AS
TO PERMIT RAMSDELL TO RETURN. THEIR ACTION IN RESCINDING TORCHIA
EXPULSION ORDER IS HOPEFUL SIGN THAT NSS DECISION IS NOT ALWAYS
VETOLESS, BUT NSS INVOLVEMENT IN RAMSDELL CASE IS FAR DEEPER
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AND THEIR COMMITMENT PRESUMABLY FAR GREATER.
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740141-0324
From: MOGADISCIO
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740677/aaaacomw.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, CGEN, US, SO, CONOCO, (TORCHIA, ANDREW), (RAMSDELL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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